

I claim:

1. A computer-implemented method of digital data duplication comprising:

5 taking requests at one or more user interfaces;  
  
transmitting said requests through a network to a computer;  
  
assigning each of said requests to one of a plurality of output devices;  
and  
10 executing the duplication process.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the medium for said duplication is a digital information storing medium comprising compact disks, mini compact disks, or digital versatile disks.  
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3. The method of claim 1, wherein said duplication process comprises transferring digital data onto blank recordable digital compact disks.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer comprises:  
  
at least one first module configured to create a task log based on incoming requests;  
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at least one second module configured to store all data necessary for executing said duplication process;

25 at least one third module configured to create a subset of said data stored in said second module, further configured to download said subset to one of said output devices, and further configured to command said output device to transfer said subset onto blank media;  
and

30 a connection through which said second module communicates with said first module and said third module.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said data stored in said second module comprises:

an expandable indexed archive of digital data, said data representing contents available for request by customers; and

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at least one resource file for each of said output devices in communication with said computer.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said data in each said resource file comprise:

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name and type of one of said output devices;

network address of said output device;

number of drives in said output device;

availability of said output device;

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number of blank recording mediums pre-loaded in said output device;

index of digital data that has been downloaded onto said output device; and

hard drive capacity remaining in said output device.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said first module is configured to send at least one signal to at least one printing device to create mailing address labels for each of said requests.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein assigning said requests comprises:

grouping together requests for the same content;

directing said requests to the most immediately available output device that is capable of making the requested duplication onto the requested type of recording medium;

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tracking the number of recording mediums remaining in each output device;

notifying an operator if more recording mediums need to be loaded;

finding the digital data that corresponds to the requested content;

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sending a write command to said output device in the format that said output device understands;

10 waiting for the output device to perform the requested number of duplications; and

repeating the above steps each time a new request is entered.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein finding the digital data comprises:

15 checking the cache of said output devices for data representing the requested content(s);

deleting enough pre-existing data in said cache to make room for said requested content; and

20 downloading said requested content from said computer onto said cache of said output device.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein each module that comprises said computer is responsive to electronic mail commands.

25 11. A system for duplication of data onto digital recording mediums, the system comprising:

a customer interface; and

a communication network connecting said customer interface to a server that schedules and processes duplication.

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12. The system of claim 11, wherein said server comprises:

first module for creating a log of customer requests;

second module for storing the data to be duplicated;

third module for scheduling the duplication of each request and directing each request to one of a plurality of output devices;

at least one printing device for producing mailing labels for each request; and

at least one output device for transferring the data requested by customers from an internal data storage onto digital recording mediums.